

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 05618 211104Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 EUR-12 ARA-10 EB-08  
COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /100 W  
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R 210945Z DEC 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4067  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 5618

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, CM, SF, RH, WA  
SUBJECT: VISIT DIRECTOR CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 5520 (B) YAOUNDE 5511

1. SUMMARY: VISIT AF/C DIRECTOR JUNIOR PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY REVIEW INTERNALLY AND WITH GURC PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS. CONVERSATION WITH MIN ECON AND PLAN REPORTED REFTEL A. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES MEETINGS WITH SECRETARIES GENERAL FOREIGN AFFIARS AND PRESIDENCY. THEIR COMMENTS ON INCREASED SOVIET ETHIOPIAN INVOLVEMENT TRANSMITTED REFTEL B. END SUMMARY

2. AF/C DIRECTOR MET WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY GENERAL JOSEPH OWONO, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO BOTH US AND USSR. GENERAL REVIEW US AFRICAN POLICY PROMPTED OWONO EXPRESS SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS SEEK NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT SOUTHERN  
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PAGE 02 YAOUND 05618 211104Z

AFRICAN PROBLEMS BUT ADD PERSONAL OPINION THAT US AND SOVIET UNION HAD THE INFLUENCE DISPOSE OF THESE PROBLEMS ANY TIME. (COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A VARIANT OF "POLITICAL WILL" ARGUMENT USED PREVIOUSLY BY LDC'S IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.) HE CITED EXAMPLE OF UN INABILITY TO BRING ABOUT MAD-EAST CEASE FIRE IN 1956 AND US-USSR SUCCESSFULLY LEANING ON ISRAEL AND UAR TO BRING ABOUT PROMPT CESSATION HOSTILITIES. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION

ON INCREASED SOVIET AIRLIFT TO ETHIOPIA (REFTEL B). OWONO ALSO MADE PLEA FOR INCREASED LEVEL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. CONSTRAINTS ON CONTRIBUTIONS INFRASTRUCTURE WERE THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED TO HIM.

3. SAMUEL EBOUA, SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE PRESIDENCY, OCCUPIES POSITION ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT IN OUR SYSTEM, EXCEPT THAT HE MORE IN CHARGE OF RUNNING DAILY OPERATIONS AND, IN ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO, IS DE FACTO IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MEETING BEGAN WITH GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON CENTRAL AFRICA POLITICAL SCENE, ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATED TO DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EBOUA INDICATED CAMEROON CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET PRESENCE PREDATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR MPLA WHEN THEY WERE MEDDLING IN ZAIRE AFFAIRS SHORTLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE THAT COUNTRY. NOW GURC WAS TRYING TO WORK OUT IMPLICATIONS FOR CAMEROON OF RUSSIAN AND CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA AND THE SHABA INCURSION. GURC HAS FOLLOWED WITH APPRECIATION US EFFORTS TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IN NAMIBIA. GURC VALUED OUR EFFORTS AS RESULT OF NEW AFRICAN POLICY OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND HE ONLY HOPED THAT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THIS POLICY WILL BE PURSUED TO ITS END. EBOUA WISHED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE CONCERNS OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES BECAUSE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES NOT ONLY IMPINGE ON SECURITY AND WELFARE OF BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT ALSO ON THE SECURITY AND WELFARE OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES  
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PAGE 03 YAOUND 05618 211104Z

THEMSELVES. COMMENT: WHILE MINISTER ECONOMY AND PLAN AND FOREIGN AFFIARS SECRETARY GENERAL USED OCCASION TO REQUEST MORE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, PRESIDENCY SECRETARY GENERAL TOOK THE HIGH ROAD AND MADE NO REQUESTS EXCEPT TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT WE WOULD PURSUE OUR NEW AFRICAN POLICY TO ITS END IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN ADDITION TO THESE FORMAL MEETINGS, AF/C DIRECTOR HAD OPPORTUNITY MEET NUMBER MINISTERIAL AND SUB-MINISTERIAL AT SOCIAL EVENTS ARRANGED BY AMBASSADOR AND DCM. AF/C DIRECTOR NOTED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION THAT CAMEROON HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED IN OTHER CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES AS MODEL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HE WONDERED WHAT CAMEROON WAS DOING RIGHT AND IF IT HAD ANY TRANSFERABILITY TO MTHER COUNTRIES. THIS QUESTION WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE TELEGRAM.  
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## Message Attributes

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